The Impact of Environmental Degradation

By: Orlando Augustine
Dateline: Hopkins

This article attempts to systematize the links between environmental degradation and movement of mineral from a natural area presumably one of the most vulnerable waterway on the north side of Hopkins. In brief, environmental degradation occurs when a potentially renewable resource such as soil, grassland, forest, or wildlife is extracted at a rate faster than the resource can be replaced and thus becomes depleted. Moreover, if the rate of use of the resource remains high, the resource can become nonrenewable or even become nonexistent.

For example, the waterway on the north side of the community that connects the sea with Fresh Water Creek is presently facing serious environmental degradation. Furthermore, historical facts reveal that many years ago, the same waterway was used by the residents to access their farmlands, as well as, nearby community of Silk Grass. It must be emphasized that moving tons of sand from within this area can take many years to replace, hence the reason that the activity has been challenged by the residents.

To add more historical background to this waterway, it is also used by our residents to catch fish. The uniqueness of this waterway is that it operates according to the course of nature. There are times during the year that it closes and opens its banks. Whenever it opens and the spawning process is completed, they venture into the sea and at the same time the movement of sand from Fresh Water Creek onto the shoreline of the community prevents soil erosion. There is no scientific instrument that is capable to define the work of nature within this area; the experience of the residents must be adhered to and respected.

The rate of development on the north side of Hopkins Village during the past two years is a major concern for resident of this coastal community. The current issue regarding the environmental degradation on north side of the community has (Turn to pg. 3)

On Thursday last, the results of the PSE was released however it was not released to the students of the Stann Creek District until Friday evening. Undoubtedly, the mere announcement that the results had been released caused trauma to most students as they anticipate their performance on the exam.

It is a known fact that this exam is administered to students on a yearly basis to determine their level of mastery of the concepts covered over their eight years of Primary School. It is unfortunate that the community uses this exam to determine two things, (1) how smart a child is and (2) to assess the quality of teaching occurring at a school but overall the ability of the teachers in a given school to impart the knowledge to students. However, the part of the equation often missing is the role of the parents in ensuring that they assist students to succeed as well. Is the education of children left only up to the teachers at school or do parents have a significant role as (Turn to pg. 4)

Police investigate boat theft in Sittee River Village

Police are investigating the theft of a boat in Sittee River. Eusebio Bonnel of the Stann Creek District reported to police that his 23 feet skiff was stolen from its mooring in Sittee River Village between Thursday and Saturday of last week. In his report Mr. Bonnel also said that his boat had been outfitted with assorted equipment and tools. Police are investigating the situation and would appreciate any leads that can assist the owner in the recovery of his belongings.

San Vicente residents on firearm charges

San Vicente, Toledo District
Police have arrested and charged ANTONIO POP, 34, CATALINA POP, 30 and two minors with 4 counts of Kept Ammunition without a gun license and 3 counts of Kept Firearm without a gun license.

On Friday June 5, at 6:30am, police conducted a search at the residence of ANTONIO POP of San Vicente Village, Toledo District which led to the discovery of a bag containing (1) .38 Revolver Taurus Brand with (9) .38 live rounds and (75).22 Magnum live rounds. (Turn to pg. 8)
My fellow Grigailizens,  
Let me respond to article in last week’s edition “Wakeup Call For Dangriga Representative” by an angry UDP supporter from Dangriga by the name of Rad. I really noh know who part ah Dangriga you cum fram or I mussy really, really diggy diggy fi true and suffa fram sometimers.  

I have heard on Hamalali Radio talk show talks too many times about our own local citizens complaining about those that are out on the streets of Grigidang pestering and begging people for this or that. I was continuously being bothered by this Prime Minister till bout my Grigailizen Brothers and Sistahs the same. I usually had to actually lie my way out to them or literally hide for my own sanity.  

I referred in my previous articles, I always referred to some of these people as part of the 1% that are problems people to our society, as Grigailizens, we should not leave anyone behind, we should be able to identify “Di Lazy from the Crazy” and “Di man wha noh suffa frame extreme poverty, even though deh di try dem best fi survive”.  

You don’t have to go too far, just go to Hopkins Village and you’ll see the difference. Dem deh people noh beg like dat then. Go to PG, dem deh people noh beg like dat either. Let me take you down memory lane a little bit, you years grown by, notorious thieves were too proud to beg that they prefer to steal to satisfy their own ego. Like wen wi Prime Minister still bout di NICH and Gegg Contract, “The lesser of two evils”. I know, because I had members of my own fam not that did that. The only difference with the criminals now is that, they will go after anyone for what they have or do not have and if you noh gat noting fi give dem deh wah kah lata. The point is that I’m trying to get across to you Rad, di man might noh di seh when you wahn hear because ih fed up wid this behavour but personally noh think di man noh like Grigailizens. Frustration dah wah funny ting di bwai especially if you Boss act like ih noh gat no sense.  

When I congratulated our present Mayor and his members after election, I stated to them that yes, we were elected by the citizens of Grigohn but they will encounter different challenges and I’m sure they have by now. I ready fi put een mi lee two cents worth right now an say: “Di Cultibu fi Sexy Thing Beach, Front erosion, maybe money noh deh yet, mi noh know. The same thing applied to Mr. Roches, our Area Representative very diggy along with the rest of them that are in the House Of Representatives. I remember listening to a radio talk show when our citizens was called in and complained that she visited the Area Rep’s Office and asked him for assistance to pay her water bill, phone bill and cable bill and he refused or ignored her.  

PSE results are out and with a few exceptions the results are at best mediocre and at their worse dismal. There were very few outstanding results nationally and none locally.  

The statistics continue to alarm. In Stann Creek not one student placed in the top 25 nationally. At one school in Dangriga Town, 31 students sat the exam and 7 passed.  

These results are unacceptable. Yet year after year, government after government go through- what has now become a ritual- of telling us how serious they are about education; how important education is to national as well as personal development. Nevertheless, up to this point in time no amount of grand sounding schemes; no amount of sophisticated charts depicting inputs and desired outcomes; no education summits; no amount of consultations seem to be working.  

We’ve been down this road too many times before and nothing changes for the majority of our children. We know and have known for a long time what the problems and obstacles are. On May 26, 2004 during the 2004 Belize Education Summit in Belmopan Dr. Santos Mahung had this to say:  

There is need for greater community ownership and responsibility for the process of education and greater accountability for the resources of education. There is need for more decentralized and innovative management characterized by greater flexibility and attention to results.  

Our schools are under resourced in terms of materials and other student and learning support requirements.  

Another issue of concern for Dr. Mahung was:  
…our extravagant habit of wiping the slate clean and starting over, otherwise known as throwing the baby out with the bath water. Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot afford to keep starting over. It is not only expensive to mobilize and entire system, but it is ineffective. We do not make use of the experiences gained and progress made, we keep sliding down, rather than progressing up the learning curve, we lose valuable time and resources and we keep discarding valuable expertise.  

All of us know that our school system is failing. There are school based factors including understanding and teaching the curriculum and student readiness; class dynamics and pupil motivation. We have community based factors that impede student learning. They include family values and attitudes toward learning. There are also economic and other challenges that make it difficult for students to stay in school. There is no need to repeat ad nauseam the litany of things that are wrong with our education system. We as parents and community members can and must become a part of the solution.  

We must help our children to see that education is a community activity. It is up to us to help our children succeed.  

The PSE results are disgraceful. We, the community are to blame.
The Impact of Environmental Degradation

By: Orlando Augustine

(Cont’d from pg.1) been raised with the Ministries of Environment, Lands and Geology and it is disappointing to know that they do not give a damn about the situation. This unprofessional ministerial behaviour causes people to take action in the media, on the streets and sometimes into their own hands. If the appropriate government ministries had listened to the cries of the people, they would have had the dredging of our wetlands, the movement of sand from the waterway and the fight against environmental degradation under control.

The waterway that connects the sea with Fresh Water Creek, before it was damaged

As to the time of this publication, in spite of phone calls and media coverage, no government official has visited the area to listen to the concerns of the people. This ‘no give a damn’ attitude of our elected government representatives need to change. Moreover, whenever attempts are made to contact the key players, you are pushed around from one ministry to another, or you hear the usual annoying answer; he or she is on another call, is out of office, is in a meeting or will call you back.

At the community level, the growth of development within the area is fast without thinking of its impact on the community. It has an unacceptable affect on the community especially whenever the perpetrator have the blessing of those we voted into office to protect our interest. It is a fact that environmental degradation has a major effect on the soil erosion that is affecting north side of Hopkins today. It seems that our development policymakers and investors have corrupted our elected government officials failing to recognize that the act of environmental damage will cause serious effect on the well-being of the people especially on projects that have not been environmentally sustainable.

Let me bring to the attention of our development policymakers and government officials that the landmark report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our Common Future", warned that unless we change many of our lifestyle patterns, the world will face unacceptable levels of environmental damage and human suffering. The Commission echoed the sentiment that humanity has the ability to make development sustainable and moreover, to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

While environmental concerns vary in different parts of the Stann Creek District, the environmental problems of concern to us on coastal Hopkins terrain are quite general in nature. It revolves around immediate issues, such as the desecration of our sacred site, destruction of our wetlands and the degradation of a particular natural waterway that causes soil erosion on our shoreline.

Notice is hereby given that under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, that CARLOS MOYA/MIRNA MOYA are applying for a renewal for RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE for the year 2009 to operate LATIN CORNER located at Independence Village, in the Stann Creek District.

Planing Dates
Planting Dates for above the ground: June 13, 14, 23
Planting Dates for below the ground: June 13, 14, 23
Planting Dates for Flowers: June 23, 28, 30
Best Days to Destroy Weeds: June 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27
Best Days to wean babies: June 12, 16, 17
Best Fishing Days: June 13, 14, 23

LAST QUARTER WILL BE ON JUNE 15

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Or Call 502-0093

Thought for the Day:
“Sometimes others can see the greatness in us that we cannot see.”
PSE results 2009, who to blame?

Out-a-Wageirale

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

Societies use of this exam could have a psychological effect on children that they will go to all extreme to ensure that people are unaware of their failures or shortcomings. On Friday, I was amazed to see so many children with marked uniform shirts and blouses that I was of the impression that the result for our district was outstanding. Alas, I quickly came to realize that some of these students merely marked their blouse/shirts to deter the society of their shortcomings. As a matter of fact, I stopped to congratulate one of them only to see the tears of the poor child who confessed to me that she parents about her results.

The results from the Stann Creek District including schools such as Gales Point merely allowed her clothes to be marked in order to comfort/console herself because she had failed the exam. She further commented that she was concerned about how she would tell her, Trio, Bella Vista and a few other schools in other districts such as Belize and Toledo but managed from Dangriga has revealed that about 870 students registered and 490 or 56.3% of them got a grade of 50% or over. The result for the schools in Dangriga Town has revealed that of 277 children that sat the exam and 168 or 60.6% of them made a score of 50% or over. Five private candidates also registered from the Stann Creek District of which 2 or 40% got a score of 50% and over. The top scorer for the Stann Creek district was one Shamika Martinez of Holy Family Roman Catholic School in Hopkins Village who scored 348 out of a possible 400 points to make a percentage score of 87. One other student from this school also scored 80% or better. The top school in the District was Solid Rock Academy which sent 16 students of which 15 got a score of 50% and over with 4 of their students making an average of 80% or better, 2 students from Sacred Heart School also scored 80% or better. The results thus reveal that no student in our district scored in the nineties and only scored in the eighties.

From the data collected, it is easy to point fingers one way or the other but who should be blamed for the poor performance of the students in our district? Should the blame be placed only on the laps of the teachers, or should administration be blamed. Should we blame the Local/General Managers or should we blame the parents? Moreover, should we blame the children for their shortcomings? At a time like this, it is often difficult to find anyone who is willing to become the “fall guy.” Believe me; a result like this will have those in leadership positions to point fingers at each other. However, I am of the opinion that a situation like this occurs mainly because our curriculum is too heavily laden that teachers are finding it very difficult to address the demands of the school. Likewise, I am of the belief that school administrators are not doing sufficient to ensure that their teachers do what is necessary to ensure the success of students. Administrators also have this tendency of placing their strong teachers in the Infant Division while neglecting their Middle Division by placing their weakest teachers there. To compound the problem, the Upper Division Teachers thus find themselves where they have to go overtime to make up for shortcomings caused by Administrative neglect. It is also not uncommon to find out that teachers in our Primary Schools are only surface teaching. They are only skimming the top of the topics and not going in-depth. They do not use a variety of strategies, visual aids and methods to teach students and as a result children find themselves last and confused when the same concept is tested. Most teachers forget that within any classroom, there are the visual, tactile and the auditory learners. Yet, some teachers prefers to merely “chalk and talk” inside their classroom. Gardner also identified nine intelligences within most institution of learning which individuals have. Yet, within our system of education they only cater for the needs of the students who are Mathematical Logical and the verbally linguistic. Students are no longer taught using their own experiences therefore to them education is meaningless.

The case of the role of the parents is in itself “a horse of a different color” and I will not take them off the hook for their children’s shortcomings. Quite often they fail to be any part of their child’s academic life and only visit school when there is a need to give the teacher the “fifth degree.” Parents need to collaborate with the school and their children. Education is more than giving that donation and maybe picking up that report card. Your support or encouragement is needed by students every step of the way and not only at a time like this when some of us is suddenly get a rude awakening that our child is not up to mark.

A topic like this will lead to several debates as to who to blame for the poor performance of our children but I will conclude by mentioning the finger on the teachers, the student, parent and administration. It is high time that we come down to reality and do some serious soul searching. If your school did not do well, it is not the end of the world, get back to the drawing board, identify your strengths/weaknesses and start brand new however do not be afraid to make the hard calls if necessary. It is obvious that to correct the problem within our education system, some hard decisions will have to be made. Some will be affected but what to do? Hoping next year’s result will be a lot better and congratulations to the top district scorers and all students who either passed or failed. To those who did not make it, I encourage you not to give up. Keep up the struggle and do your best. Remember this is not the end of the world and a one day exam will never be able to give a true indicator of your ability as a student. I have seen many who have failed PSE and others go on to High School and come out on top. Don’t give up and let the stars be the limit.

Luv Yah!!!!!!
Once upon a time there was a beautiful girl called Cinderella and she had two ugly step sisters who were very unkind who made her do all the hard work. She had to sweep the floors, do all the dishes, while they dressed up in fine clothes and went to lots of parties.

One day a special invitation arrived at Cinderella’s house. It was from the royal palace. The king’s only son was a truly handsome prince was going to have a grand ball. Three girls were invited to come. Cinderella knew she wouldn’t be allowed to go to the ball. But the ugly sisters, her ho ho ho, they were excited. They couldn’t talk about anything else.

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When the day of the ball came, they made such a fuss. Poor Cinderella had to rush about upstairs and downstairs. She fixed their hair in fancy waves and curls. She helped them put on their expensive new dresses.

And she arranged their jewels just so. As soon as they had gone, Cinderella sat down by the fire and she said. “Oh I do wish I could go to the ball!”. The next moment, standing beside her was a lovely old lady with a silver wand in her hand.

“Cinderella”, she said “I am your fairy godmother and you shall go to the ball. But first you must go into the garden and pick a golden pumpkin, then bring me six mice from the mousetraps, a whiskered rat from the rat trap and six lizards. You’ll find the lizards behind the watering can”.

So Cinderella fetched a golden pumpkin, six grey mice, a whiskered rate, six lizards. The fairy godmother touched them with her wand and the pumpkin became a golden coach, the mice became six grey horses, the rat became a coachman with the most enormous moustache and the lizards became six footmen dressed in green and yellow, then the fairy godmother touched Cinderella with the wand and her old dress became a golden dress sparkling with jewels while on her feet was the prettiest pair of glass slippers.

But Cinderella slipped her foot off down the road were six grey mice, a whiskered rat and six green lizards. So Cinderella had to wait home and by the time the ugly sisters returned home was sitting quietly by the fire. Now when Cinderella ran from the palace, the prince tried to follow her and he found the glass slipper. He said “I shall marry the beautiful girl whose foot fits this slipper and only her”. In the morning the prince went from house to house with the glass slipper and every young lady tried to squeeze her foot into it. But it didn’t fit any of them.

At last the prince came to Cinderella’s house. First one ugly sister tried to squash her foot into the slipper. But her foot was too wide and fat. Then the other ugly sister tried but her foot was too long and thin. Please said Cinderella, let me try. “The slipper won’t fit you”, said the ugly sisters. “You didn’t go to the ball!” But Cinderella slipped her foot into the glass slipper and it fit perfectly. The next moment standing beside her was the fairy godmother. She touched Cinderella with the wand and there she was in a golden dress sparkling with jewels and on her feet was the prettiest pair of glass slippers.

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What’s On The Mind:
Jenean Adderley Castillo, Ph.D.
whatsonthemind@hotmail.com

Congratulations Graduates…and Your Parents

Graduation marks the culmination of much hard work and effort. It also signals the beginning of another journey. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate this year’s graduates as well as your parents and loved ones who encouraged and supported you along the way. It has been proven that behind every successful person there is at least one person who believed in them, encouraged and supported them. For many of us, that one person is often a parent. As parents, we believe in endless possibilities for our children and take on the responsibility to help them realize their dreams and sometimes our dreams for them. I know for myself, personally, without the support and encouragement of my parents, I would never have gotten this far.

If you ask any child what they want to be when they grow up, no one ever says a waitress, cashier or housekeeper. Instead you hear doctor, lawyer, teacher, pilot, etc. and I was no different. As a young child, I said I wanted to be a doctor and my parents, especially my father, encouraged that. I can recall that periodically my father would ask me, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” And I would always answer “a doctor”. And if there was any indication that I had changed my mind, he would remind me, “So you still want to be a doctor, right?” and I would say yes. My dad continued to “condition” this thinking and eventually I internalized it and believed that this was possible and could be a reality. Never mind that as a child in Belize I had no idea how this could possibly come about but I believed that it could happen. So when anyone tried to take that dream away, they were not successful. But if the first time I had told my father I wanted to be a doctor and he had said to me, that it was too hard or it takes too long and you can’t even do that in Belize anyway, I would have learned not to have high expectations for myself and that my abilities were inferior. So, I want to remind parents that whatever your child’s interest may be, encourage it and support it. Remind them of their limitless possibilities and help them strive for their goals. All it takes is just one loving or caring person or adult, someone who believes in them and supports them. As parents, our children look to us first to be that supportive force and we cannot let them down.

Of course, it is also important for you students to do your part. Don’t take your access to education for granted. Utilize every opportunity available to you and make every possible sacrifice. Doors may not readily open for you and opportunities may not exist but you must create your own opportunities and try not to be an obstacle to yourself. There will be people along the way who will try to bring you down, who may tell you that you are not good enough or smart enough, for example. You certainly do not need to hear that from your family and you especially don’t want to tell yourself that.

Know that the sacrifices you make now will last a lifetime. Don’t underestimate the value of a higher education. Of course, the most compelling and obvious reward is the financial gain. The higher your level of education, the higher your salary is likely to be. Not only is the starting salary higher but the raises or salary increases along the way are higher and the promotions are better. Also, you can’t deny the sense of personal achievement and gratification that comes with accomplishing a higher education. In addition, the skills and knowledge gained can never be taken away from you. You will always be a bankable, employable individual. And most importantly, you will be a productive citizen contributing to the betterment of your family, your community.

Caribbean News

Belmopan, Belize - June 10, 2009

Former Belize Prime Minister Said Musa says he has been vindicated by a decision to dismiss a corruption charge against him but the country’s Director of Public Prosecutions has made it clear she will be appealing that ruling.

Musa, whose People’s United Party (PUP) lost power in last year’s general elections, had been accused of using half of US$20 million grant given by Venezuela in 2007 for the repair and construction of houses, to settle an outstanding government debt instead.

He had been charged with the theft of the US$10 million along with his former home affairs and housing minister Ralph Fonseca but a magistrate court had let Fonseca go free earlier, stole US$10 million. I order that the committal order for him to be brought to this court be quashed,” he said.

Musa was jubilant after Conteh’s ruling: “This was from the beginning political persecution. It was political persecution because they knew that neither I nor Mr. Fonseca stole any money, yet they charged us with stealing US$10 million…Imagine, without even a police investigation. There was no investigation of this matter.”

However, he admitted that he should have been more forthcoming about what the money was used for.

“The fact that we did not inform the Belizean people at the time when this decision was taken, I accept that. I accept that there were political mistakes made but what I will not accept is that we did anything criminal or anything illegal. All my actions were geared towards solving problems, providing solutions, never for private gain,” Musa said.

But Director of Public Prosecutions Cheryl-Lynn Branker-Tait has made it clear the matter would not be there.

“I was surprised by the reasoning for the judgment but when one gets a judgment that one is not satisfied with, one doesn't comment or rant or rave; one simply appeals, which is what we are going to do,” she said.

The prosecution has 21 days from the Chief Justice’s judgment to file the appeal.

The prosecution has 21 days from the Chief Justice’s judgment to file the appeal.
1. P U P campaigners are still angry over pay cheque for the last election. If you earned it then you deserve it.

2. Hopkins residents need to see the wetland map or you may miss the choice pieces. Is the land for sale or lease to residents?

3. The sheriff does not want to leave town. Drink that good old Gumagarugu water?

4. Who is dredging to the north of Hopkins? Is this one a private investment or part and parcel of the whole?

5. The gated community north of Hopkins has closed the gate. Hopkins residents cannot get in. Can the gated community pass through Hopkins?

6. Graduation this weekend, can we expect to hear about the suite?

In a pre-emptive strike, the P U P held a meeting on Saturday, 6th June 2009 at the Holy Ghost Primary School at 3:00 pm. Party Chairperson Carolyn Sandiford was in town to give a presentation to members on the way forward for the P U P. This gathering on Saturday 6th may have been prompted by the letter of the concern P U P supporters in Dangriga to the Dangriga Branch Chairman to meet on Sunday 10:00 am, 7th June 2009, at the P U P Party Hall in Dangriga.

At the conclusion of the presentation there were other matters that were addressed. The matter of the concerned P U P members will be discussed by the local chairman and his executive to select a date, within two weeks, to meet with the concerned members and in the presence of P U P headquarters officials if necessary.

The swift move to hold a P U P meeting a day before the concerned P U P members were to assemble at the Party Hall may have reduced the tension between the Chairman and the concerned members. But it also put the chairman in a position where he must become accountable to the members. The gathering will continue!
I attended Sacred Heart School in Dangriga Town around the same time when Robert Raboo Garcia was playing for our school. Raboo lived right next to the school and could see inside the classes from upstairs of his house. At the time we were growing up in Dangriga Town, most of us played for the football teams that were in our neighborhood. Raboo lived on Front Street adjacent to the large field that is along the beach of the north side of Dangriga Town which stretches from the hospital to the burial ground.

The first Municipal Airstrip use to be in front of his house along with the old pier where big boats use to dock and Dangriga residents use to go fishing. Since he was from Front Street, he played football with the Front Street teams but I played for Logan Field Boys which is in the central part of north side and next to my house. I remember going up against the Front Street Boys and Raboo’s team and it was always a pleasure to see him play. He was a very fast player and could not compete with these top teams and eventually the team broke up. Raboo went to Lynam College for a short time and then came back to Dangriga Town and finished up his High School at Austin High School while I was just starting. Raboo, Garincha, David Martinez, Ashter Esle Velasquez and Brazilian all played with me on the Austin High School team. Raboo’s position was always right wing and he played with speed, cunning and quick hard shots at the goal. Most goalkeepers were afraid of him because his shots were like missiles coming to take you out.

In the late 1960s one of Dangriga’s best football player by the name of Daniel Lino better known as Lacio Martinez who is now deceased and played for some of Belize’s best teams like: Avengers, Chito’s Eleven, Libertad, San Juan, and the National Selection. When Raboo played they competed for the City Championship but lost to Landivar.

Raboo Garcia played football for many years when the Dangriga Selection was a team to be recognized and respected. During those years, there was always a National Competition taking place throughout the country of Belize and all the districts used to compete against each other. In those days Belize boasted of having good football players compared to today. It was war time because nobody wanted their District to lose and they played with all their guts to win. I was playing against my home town, Dangriga, for the All Orange Walk Selection and we had a tough time beating them. In fact, in 1975 and 1976 the Orange Walk Selection went up against Dangriga with Raboo, Garincha, Sarge Lewis, Buck Palacio, Orin Orio and his crew and lost twice.

Two years ago, I went to visit my cousin Raboo Garcia and he told me to sit in his living room and wait for him. When he came back outside he was looking at me and he started to laugh. I asked him what he was laughing at and he said he had a picture he wanted to show me. He went back inside his room and he brought out a postcard picture to show me. On this postcard was my cousin Raboo Garcia and he brought out a postcard picture to show me. On this postcard was his picture along with me and other players in the game that we lost to his team at M.C.C. Grounds in Belize City. When they defeated us for the National Championship 2 to 1. He said I was lucky because I read one of his moves in the game and he almost scored and we both laughed at each other. I blew up the picture and sent him back an enlarged copy which I cherish and gave to other family members and friends.

Robert Raboo Garcia was always a kind fun loving person to be with and around. I made it my business to go and talk with him whenever I went back home. On my last trip I did not get a chance to see him and when I heard that he was sick I felt like a dagger going through my heart. Just before he died, our other cousin Machiste Garcia the former Minister of Agriculture was sick and he also played for Lynam College. The town of Dangriga owes Robert Raboo Garcia a lot for his contributions to football and in his honor we should do something in his memory that will have an everlasting impact on our aspiring football youths. Maybe we can start, by naming a street after him so that when our young children see the name they will ask their parents: Who was Robert Raboo Garcia? We can then say to them with pride that “He was one of Dangriga’s football legends”. Many of our football legends have died and there is nothing in their memory in Dangriga Town to acknowledge their contributions. We can correct this injustice by starting with Raboo my friend and family.

Robert “Raboo” Garcia

Robert “Raboo” Garcia among teams like: R.A.C., Highlights, Destroyers, Public Works, All Stars, Middlesex, Forest, Alta Vista, Pomona, Mango Creek and Lynam College. They tried their best but could not compete with these top teams and eventually the team broke up. Raboo went to Lynam College for a short time and then came back to Dangriga Town and finished up his High School at Austin High School while I was just starting. Raboo, Garincha, David Martinez, Ashter Esle Velasquez and Brazilian all played with me on the Austin High School team. Raboo’s position was always right wing and he played with speed, cunning and quick hard shots at the goal. Most goalkeepers were afraid of him because his shots were like missiles coming to take you out.

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Mr. Wellington C. Ramos

San Vicente residents on firearm charges

(Cont’d from pg. 1)

A further search revealed (1) 7.65MM Model VZOR70 Pistol with (1) Magazine and (2).32 live rounds. A third firearm, (1).9MM pistol with (3) magazines and (39).9MM live rounds were found under a bed. Present at the time of the search were ANTONIO POP, 34, CATALINA POP, 30, and two minors, all of San Vicente Village, Toledo District. All four were formally arrested and charged with 4 counts of Kept Ammunition without a gun license and 3 counts of Kept Firearm without a gun license.
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&
Anywhere!!!!
June 12, 2009

**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19)

Opportunist people are new on the scene. Treat them with courtesy -- and caution. Lay out your ambitions so they make sense to you -- it's definitely time for you to advance! It may be easier than you think, thanks to some great mental energy and a little good luck.

**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20)

Finally, your travel plans are set! Now the fun part begins: Shopping! You need to stand by your values today, even if that makes you look like a stick in the mud. You just won't feel comfortable unless you do what's right, so get ready for a struggle.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20)

Don't compromise your ideals for anyone, even if they have influenced you before. You've got an opportunity to make your ideals sync up with your real life -- it could be through volunteer work, or maybe your home life is starting to take a seriously positive shift.

**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22)

Be prepared for your mind to wander -- weekend plans distract you from work. An argument erupts in what should be a friendly meeting or chat -- it could be through volunteer work, or maybe your home life is starting to take a seriously positive shift.

**LEO** (July 23 - August 22)

This is a big deal for you, but don't worry! You're going to make great things to come in that arena. Try not to worry too much about whether or not you're saying or doing anything you might end up outpacing the competition.

**VIRGO** (August 23 - Sept 22)

You've got an opportunity to make your ideals sync up with your real life -- it could be through volunteer work, or maybe your home life is starting to take a seriously positive shift.

**LIBRA** (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Sentimental feelings get in the way. Nostalgia makes the past look better. Try not to worry too much about whether or not you're saying or doing the right things -- you're in the flow! Your love life should get a serious bump, so expect great things to come in that arena.

**SCORPIO** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Your practical thinking saved everyone a lot of trouble ... and the boss is happy! Your family life may get a bit wobbly today, as everyone close to you seems to want more from you than usual. No one can compromise, so you may have to duck out for a while until it blows over.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Grow a rainy day fund by pinching some pennies -- make your lunch, skip the lattes. Grow a rainy day fund by pinching some pennies -- make your lunch, skip the lattes.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You'll achieve a solid Today is perfect for entering into new financial arrangements -- but, of course, not all of them are created equal! Use that judgment you're so famous for to pick the best plan for you or your family. The gamble you took will pay off with good results.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You can't solve all mysteries. Don't know why something happened? Don't fight it. You can't stand stagnation -- and right now, you're in the best possible position to make a change! See if you can get your coworkers or family members to hear you out. It's simpler than ever!

**PISCES** (Feb 19 - March 20)

Just because things are easy doesn't mean they aren't significant. Enjoy life. You're as ambitious as anyone else -- but sometimes you need to take your time to make sure you're on the right path. Pay attention to your dreams tonight, as they should tell you for sure.

---

**Puzzle 24 Hotels**

**ARMS v. LIBERTY**

- **O I F A L D Y B K Y B T X T N Z S F T**
- **E E R T E L B U O O D D B C E A T S Y N**
- **N F E L E T O H L E U O B G K E A A V O**
- **N L L Y C L I D S T M X O O R N F Y Y T**
- **I O E B I N O E I F A L N P L K A H E L**
- **Y O V B H N T D O A Z B M F A T K L S I**
- **A R A O E O N R G H M E E E S S N Q B H**
- **D A T L Q V T U F I B S R L Y N I O F K**
- **I C O N C I E R G E N B P Q L Y K F R I**
- **L C R E N C T O O D G G A X H T C T C F**
- **O C H N G R E N N I D G L A S S E S E C**
- **H Q E E I A W Y F N A M L L E B H N D I**
- **B E D S C O R T L O U N G E U P C E A T**
- **C F Q B V K S A H S H Y Y K F C W S Y R Y**
- **I F O Z V H O R G W G W M C C K W C S V**
- **K Y F U O V E U X Z W A P K B E K L W F**
- **A L D P U N N Q T U L X J A M I W S R R**
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- **D Q T L H V W I D F L O G B H B N L A F**
- **T J N X J N D X Z Y H G P I P T O K E B**

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- Oscar Ramirez Bookstore
- Syno’s Pharmacy
- SiahNet Cyber Café
- Tania’s Guest House (Hopkins Village)
- Georgetown Village (Arlette Lee)
- Sittee River Village (Ava Kelly)
MAKE YOUR DAY
The Electric Fence

If you don’t laugh hysterically at this...CHECK YOUR PULSE...this is funny...and true. This was sent by a retired dentist.

We had the standard 6 ft. fence in the backyard and a few months ago, I heard about burglaries increasing dramatically in the entire city. To make sure this never happened to me, I got an electric fence and ran a single wire along the top of the fence.

Actually, I got the biggest cattle charger Tractor Supply had, made for 26 miles of fence. I then used an 8 ft. long ground rod and drove it 7.5 feet into the ground. The ground rod is the key, with the more you have, the better the fence works.

One day I’m mowing the back yard with my cheapo Wal-Mart 6 hp big wheel push mower. The hot wire is broken and laying out in the yard. I knew for a fact that I unplugged the charger. I pushed the mower around the wire and reached down to grab it, to think inside my own head...

It seems as though I hadn’t remembered to unplug it after all. Now I’m standing there, I’ve got the running lawnmower in my right hand and 1.7V charged electric fence on the other hand. Keep in mind the charger is about the size of a marine battery and has a picture of an upside down cow on fire on the back.

Time stood still.

The first thing I notice is my pecker trying to climb up the front side of my body. My eyes curled downwards and I could feel the lawnmower ignition firing in the backside of my brain. Every time that Briggs & Stratton rolled over, I could feel the spark in my head. I was literally at one with the engine.

It seems as though the fence charger and the piece of shit lawnmower were fighting over who would control my electrical impulses.

Science says you cannot crap, pee and vomit at the same time. I beg to differ. Now I am going to say that I didn’t do anything but I know my bowels emptied 3 different times in less than half a second. It was a Matrix kind of bowel movement, where time is creeping along and you’re all leaned back and BAM BAM BAM you just crap your pants 3 times. It seemed like there were minutes in between but in reality it was so close together it was like exhaust pulses from an electric fence.

At this point I’m about 30 minutes (maybe 2 seconds) into holding onto the fence wire. My hand is wrapped around the wire palm down so I wouldn’t go flying over it and up out of a farm so I know all about electric fences...but Dad always had those pieces of shit chargers made by Global that were always tripping out...that were like 9 volts and just kind of tickled.

This one I could not let go of. The 8 ft. long ground rod is now a source of signals from me through the perma damp Ark-La-Tex river bottom soil. At this point I’m thinking I’m going to have to just man up and take it, until the lawnmower runs out of gas.

"Damn!" I think, as I remember I just filled the tank.

Now the lawnmower is starting to run rough. It has settled into a loping run pattern as if it had some kind of big lawnmower race car in it. I was worried in particular about the feeling on my chest I think "Oh God please die...Please die..." But nooooo, it settles into the rough lumpy can idle nicely and remains there like a big bore roller car. EFI motor waiting for the go command from its right foot.

So here I am in the middle of July, 104 degrees, 80% humidity, standing in my own backyard, begging God to kill me. God did not take me that day...he left me there covered in my own pants and t-shirt in the misery my own stupidity had created.

I honestly don’t know how I got through the wire that day. I woke up laying on the ground hours later. The lawnmower was beside me, out of gas. It was later in the day and I was sunburned.

There were two large dead grass spots where I had been standing and another long skinny dead spot where the wire had laid while I was laying on the ground still holding on to it. I assume I finally had a seizure and in the resulting thrashing had somehow let go of the charge.

Upon waking from my electrically induced sleep I realized a few things:

1. Three of my teeth seem to have melted.
2. I now have cramps in the bottoms of my feet and my right butt cheek (not the left, just the right). My right cheek and vomit when all mixed together, do not smell like a foolish dawg barking at a flying bird.
3. My nuts are still smaller than average yet they are almost a foot long.
4. I can turn on the TV in the game room by farting while thinking of my feet and my right butt cheek. It has settled into a loping run pattern as if it had some kind of big lawnmower race car in it. I was worried in particular about the feeling on my chest I think "Oh God please die...Please die..." But nooooo, it settles into the rough lumpy can idle nicely and remains there like a big bore roller car. EFI motor waiting for the go command from its right foot.

Combine the juice and mayonnaise. Gently toss with remaining ingredients. Chill. Serve in Lobster tails or on salad greens. Garnish with lemon slices if desired.

Lobster Salad

INGREDIENTS
2 tablespoons fresh lemon or lime juice
12 ounces cooked lobster, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
1/4 cup diced cucumber
1/4 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped green pepper
Salt and pepper to taste
Dash hot pepper sauce

COOKING METHOD

From Ground to Table Mother Earth is Able
Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving

"If You Can’t Win Dem, Jine Dem"

(Cont’d from pg. 2)

Mr. Cardona’s fellow Ministers sided with him. At the end of the day Rad, Our Prime Minister stood up and begged Ms. Haylock saying that he was the one that hired Ms. Haylock and not Cardona. Di lady disrespected di Minister frum deh street and when di man try fi defend his authority, ih get slap eena di face too. Cardona had to apologize to the public and said di rest ah di Ministers siding with him mi haflo kip quiet and goh hang wit di program. Like a fractionalism my baw, didn’t mean one hurrah, like it or like it not. Right afta dat, di man stan ih ground fuh ih constituency and was the icing on the cake to oust di man outta Cabinet Rad. I personally admire an respect dat man fi stand up fi what ih believe eena. Scripture: (Psalm 27:1) (Ephesians 6:10-20) (Prov.3:5-6) (Ephesians 4:29) (1 Cor. 1-10) (l Cor. 1-10)

(3) Appointment of Police Commissioner, Crispin Jefferys. According to (PSU) Public Service Union, this man was appointed against regulations of the Public Service. Don’t get me wrong. Mr. Jefferys is a dedicated Law Enforcement Officer and there are other officers like him that probably qualify for the post. If there are regulations that were supposed to be followed and were not enforced, then it’s also a slap in the face to the other Officers that worked so hard to become Assistant Commissioners. Total disrespect against new to these people.

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Recipe prepared by: Michele Irving

Chill.

Serve in Lobster tails or on salad greens. Garnish with lemon slices if desired.
Press Release
June 10, 2009

The Belize Premier Football League playoff games will start this weekend June 13 & 14 with the following games:

**North**

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**South**

- Game 1
  - Quarter Finals
    - Sat. 13/6/09 Michael Ashcroft Std.: 7:30PM George Town Ibayani vs Nizhee Corozal
    - Sun. 14/6/09 People’s Std.: 4:00PM Suga Boys Juventus vs Hankook Verdes
  - MCC Grounds: 4:00PM F.C. Belize vs Wagiya
  - FFB Football Field: 4:00PM Belize Defence Force vs Scorpions

- Game 2
  - Sat. 20/6/09 Michael Ashcroft Std.: 7:30PM Scorpions vs Belize Defence Force
  - Sun. 21/6/09 Ricalde Std.: 3:30PM Nizhee Corozal vs George Town Ibayani
  - Norman Broaster Std.: 4:00PM Hankook Verdes vs Suga Boys Juventus
  - Carl Ramos Std.: 4:00PM Wagiya vs F.C. Belize

**Semi-Finals**

- Game 3 June 27/28
- Game 4 July 4/5

**Championship Games**

- Game 1 July 11/12
- Game 2 July 18/19

**Week 6 Results from the Dangriga Mayor’s Cup**

**Friday, May 05, 2009**

**First Game**
Silk Grass Roots won over Valley Stars by three goals to nil. Brandon Young scored 2 goals and Jimmy Estrada scored 1 goal for Silk Grass Roots.

**Second Game**
Valley Pride won over Benguche F.C. 2 goals to 1. Elroy Smith and Arlon Casley scored one a piece for Valley Pride. Leroy Garcia scored the only goal for Benguche F.C.

**Friday, May 06, 2009**

**First Game**
South Side Youths won over Silk Grass Juniors 3 goals to 1. Stevens Ledland scored 2 goals and Lennox Mejia scored 1 goal for Southside Youths, while A. Cruz scored for Silk Grass JR.

**Second Game**
Harlem and Seine Bight both ended up in a 3 to 3 draw. Jonathan Rowe, Jerome Serrano and Dean Flores scored one a piece for Harlem. Gilbert Lopez scored 2 goals and Jose Vasquez scored 1 goal Seine Bight.

This weekend schedule for Friday June 12, at 6:30 p.m.

**First Game**
Silk Grass Juniors vs. Triple “N” United

**Second Game**
Undefeated Silk Grass Roots vs. Coco Strikers

**Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 p.m.**

**First Game**
199 Degrees vs. Tren Settaz

**Second Game**
Hopkins vs. XYZ

**Game 1**

**Saturday, FATHER’S DAY SPECIAL at Ilagulei**

**Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 p.m.**

**First Game**
199 Degrees vs. Tren Settaz

**Second Game**
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**Press Release**

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**Universal Jugglaz, first time in Griga, featuring:**

- DJ Kad, Youngest DJ Champion ’05
- Jeevz, Champion ’08
- and DJ Kyle

**Timeless Sounds featuring Juggle & Galan-G Global Sounds**

**Big Bad Sounds featuring Buju B & Teppy**

**NEW REBELS Featuring Vida & Job**

**Outside: Live Drumming by the Wageirah Le Drummers**

**GRADUATES FROM NORTH, SOUTH EAST & WEST, CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS!**

**Saturday, FATHER’S DAY SPECIAL at Ilagulei**

**NEW REBELS & DJ KYLIE & SELECTA GUA GUA**

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